

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 18-20 are pending in this application after entry of this amendment. Claims 1-4 and 18 are amended as discussed below. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments, presented above, and the remarks presented below is respectfully requested.

With respect to all amendments and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure and the disclosure were objected to because of informalities. The specification was amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 4, and 18 were objected to because of informalities. The claims were amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 1 has been amended solely to provide technical clarity. By this amendment, Applicants are not surrendering any subject matter, nor limiting the scope of the claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 2 has been amended solely to provide technical clarity. By this amendment, Applicants are not

surrendering any subject matter, nor limiting the scope of the claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 3 has been amended solely to provide technical clarity. By this amendment, Applicants are not surrendering any subject matter, nor limiting the scope of the claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 4 has been amended solely to provide technical clarity. By this amendment, Applicants are not surrendering any subject matter, nor limiting the scope of the claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 19 has been amended solely to provide technical clarity. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification with the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 14 and the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 3. By this amendment, Applicants are not surrendering any subject matter, nor limiting the scope of the claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are in form for allowance and an early notification of such is requested. If the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues may be disposed of by telephone, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (415) 781-1989. This paper is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a).

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Respectfully submitted,

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